

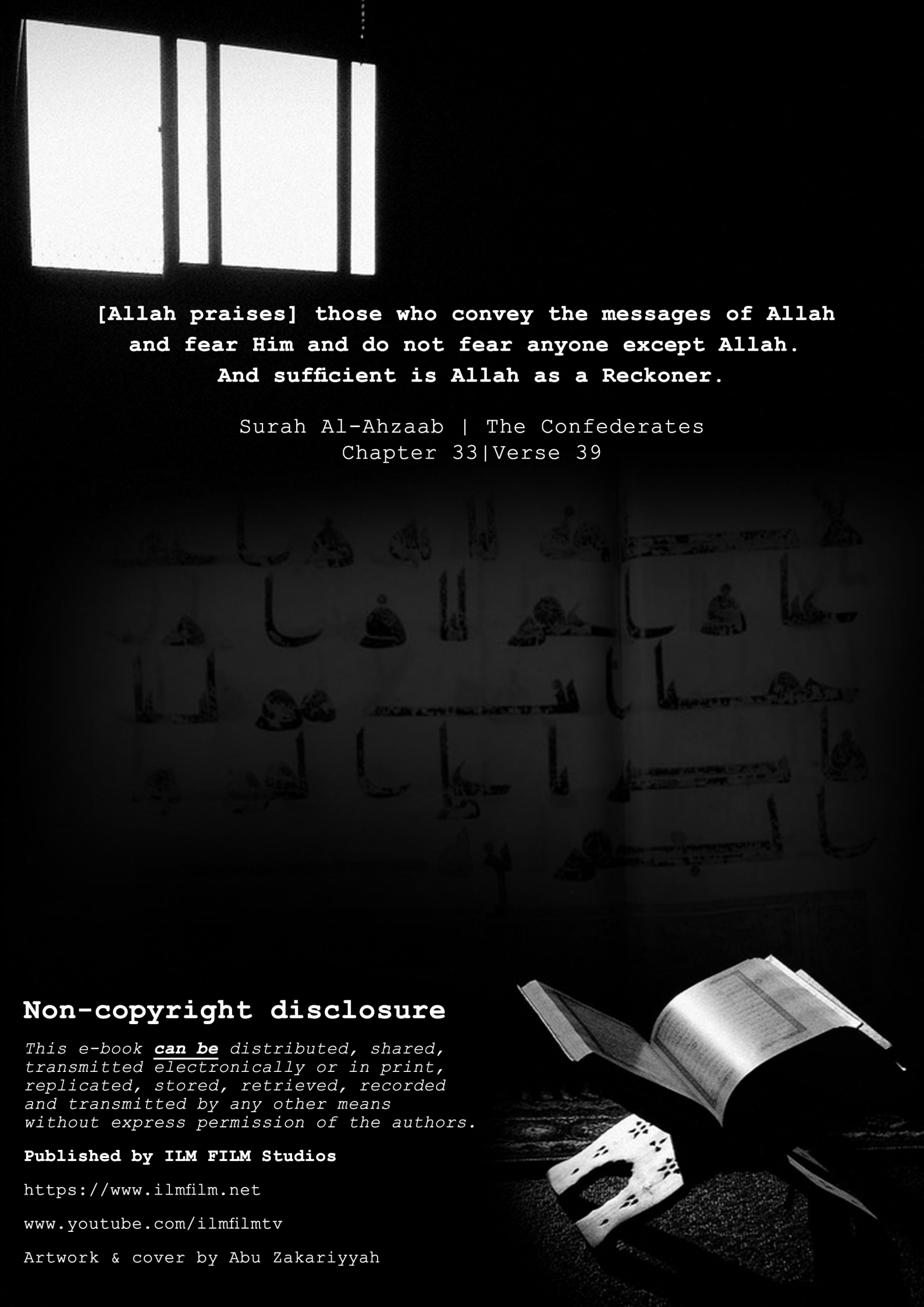


# GREAT MUSLIM LIVES

VOLUME IX



'ILM  
FILM



[Allah praises] those who convey the messages of Allah  
and fear Him and do not fear anyone except Allah.  
And sufficient is Allah as a Reckoner.

Surah Al-Ahzaab | The Confederates  
Chapter 33 | Verse 39

## Non-copyright disclosure

*This e-book **can be** distributed, shared, transmitted electronically or in print, replicated, stored, retrieved, recorded and transmitted by any other means without express permission of the authors.*

**Published by ILM FILM Studios**

<https://www.ilmfilm.net>

[www.youtube.com/ilmfilmtv](http://www.youtube.com/ilmfilmtv)

Artwork & cover by Abu Zakariyyah



# Contents page

## Foreword

Sheikh Hu Songshan (1880 - 1955) Chinese Wisdom

Muhammad 'Abduh (1849 - 1905) Between East and West

Sheikh Abdurashid Ibrahim (1857 - 1944) Even unto China

Mohammad Ali Jauhar (1878 - 1931) The conference

Al Hajj Umar Tall (1797 - 1864) The Elder

Muhammad Shibli Nomani (1857 - 1914) The Biographer

Lalla Fatma N'Soumer (1830 - 1863) Courage has a name

Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817 - 1898) Liberate your mind

'Izzedine Al-Qassam (1882 - 1935) Palestine

## Bibliography, References and Further Reading

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

# Foreword

May the Peace and Salutations of Allah be upon our beloved Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم)  
The Trustworthy, The Final Prophet and Messenger of Allah.

*“Until the lion learns to speak, the tales of the hunter will be told”*

They remind us of our defeat, our degradation and our deviation from the pathways of progress, piety and prosperity. In such times it may be difficult to draw inspiration and find courage in our identity as contemporary Muslims, however history reminds us that Islam has always been strengthened and supported by men and women of integrity, virtue and of exemplary accomplishments.

It is with a heart full of optimism, hope and love for Al-Islaam that we present to the reader a rich catalogue of contemporary biographies, each one recounting the life and legacy of a great Muslim personality.

Collectively, all of our subjects have demonstrated outstanding will and determination to cherish and champion the legacy and beauty of Al-Islaam in its purest form.



# **SHEIKH HU SONGSHAN (1880 - 1955)**

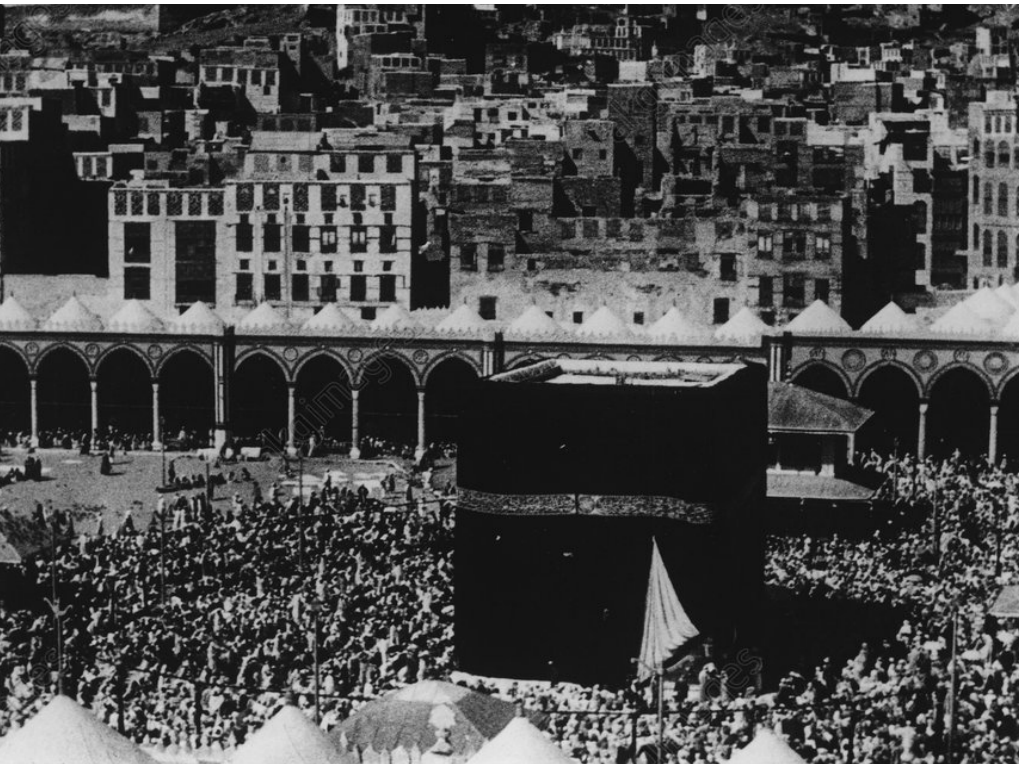
## **CHINESE WISDOM**

### **BIRTH AND BACKGROUND**

Imam Sa'd al-Din also known as Hu Songshan was a spiritual leader and a scholar in Muslim China who's contributions significantly shaped the development of Chinese Islam. Born to a Chinese Imam and spiritual guide in the year 1880, Hu Songshan would gradually abandon his father's group to become a leading advocate for religious reform and orthodoxy by the age of twenty one years old, his primary focus was on eradicating superstitious and deviated rituals.

### **HAJJ EXPERIENCE**

In 1924 when he was nearly 45 years of age, Imam Sa'd al-Din travelled via Shanghai towards the Holy city of Mecca for the Grand Pilgrimage. Regrettably, his experience of Hajj in Arabia was a little discouraging, he did not experience much solidarity and perceived a sense of discrimination from other pilgrims. On completing his pilgrimage the imam returned to China and began focusing on Chinese Islam in an effort to help his people strengthen their cultural, historic and religious identity.



### **THE CHINESE DA'WAH**

Imam Sa'd al-Din encouraged greater understanding and cooperation between Muslims and non-Muslims in China, he also studied classical Chinese texts in order to reach out and appeal to the wider society. However, unlike some literalist Chinese scholars, Imam Sa'd al-Din called for Muslims to study the Chinese language and championed the inclusion of several diverse subjects including contemporary sciences, mathematics and foreign languages as part of the Islamic curriculum.

### **TOWARDS A GREATER CHINA**

Between the years 1930 to 1940, the Imam worked diligently and passionately alongside other intellectuals to establish several schools teaching both Chinese and Arabic disciplines to students. In fact, Imam Sa'd al-Din translated several classical manuscripts from Chinese to Arabic and visa-versa, leaving behind a rich legacy and a lasting contribution to China by the time he died, in the year 1955.



# GREAT MUSLIM LIVES



**ILMFILM.NET**



# MUHAMMAD 'ABDUH (1849 - 1905)

## BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

### EUROPEAN SUNRISE

*"I went to the West and saw Islam, but no Muslims; I got back to the East and saw Muslims, but not Islam".*

These were the iconic words of the scholar, jurist, reformer and thinker - Muhammad 'Abduh. The man who spearheaded a late 19th-century movement in the Muslim world urging the masses to catch up with modernization and exercise greater intellectual enquiry in all aspects of their lives, including religion.

Born in 1849 to a farming family in Egypt, Muhammad 'Abduh was greatly influenced by Jamal ud-Din al-Afghani, the pragmatic reformer who advocated Islamic revivalism as a means by which to resist and counter European imperialism. However, unlike Jamal ud-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad 'Abduh tried to separate politics from religious reform, advocating the vision of Islam by bringing it back to its pristine state and casting off what he viewed as its contemporary relapse and division.



### THE WINDS OF CHANGE

For all of his novel ideas and bold stances, Muhammad 'Abduh was appointed Grand Mufti of Egypt in the year 1899 – now using his growing influence to promulgate reforms in Islamic law, administration and education. However as European influence grew in Egypt and institutions were increasingly adopting Western customs, sciences and teaching, specifically in the French language - Muhammad 'Abduh grew distrustful of the Western presence despite expressing his admiration of their advanced science and technology.

In what follows of his discourse and vision for the Muslim world to adopt a more pragmatic and analytical approach to religious affairs, Muhammad 'Abduh's ideas were met with great enthusiasm in some quarters of society but also by tenacious opposition in others. Today, his views remain the subject of contention over a century after his death. He died near Alexandria in 1905 but he remains a living influence upon many thinkers and organizations.

# GREAT MUSLIM LIVES

OWN THE  
**OFFICIAL DVD**  
COLLECTION



**OWN THE COLLECTION**  
**HIGH QUALITY ORIGINAL CONTENT**

**STOCK  
AVAILABLE  
ONLINE NOW!  
ILMFILM.NET**

For updates on our DVD collection and release dates for new materials visit us at [www.ilmfilm.net](http://www.ilmfilm.net)



PAL



# SHEIKH ABDURASHID IBRAHIM (1857 - 1944)

## EVEN UNTO CHINA

### THE GOLDEN TRAIL

Sheikh Abdul Rasheed Ibrahim, was a Muslim scholar from Russia - born in the year 1857. Later on in life he travelled extensively into the Far East, spreading the message of Islam over an extended period of time. During one of his many journeys to the region, he travelled to Japan in 1909 having already decided to remain there in order to propagate Islam among the Japanese communities.

He initially stayed for six months, meeting with a number of indigenous people, both ordinary and leading figures within Japanese society. Resulting from this, many young intellectuals including officers and journalists readily began learning about Islam before accepting it as a way of life. He made great efforts to work alongside the Tatar minority and influential Japanese figures, resulting in the establishment of the Tokyo mosque in the year 1938, where he served as imam.

### JAPANESE DA'WAH

The Sheikh also founded the first Japanese Muslim association which came to be known as the *Japan Assembly*. Following on from his pioneering Da'wah efforts in Japan, Sheikh Abdul Rasheed Ibrahim continued his travel throughout the Orient - visiting China, Korea, India, and the Hejaz. He also authored a book in the Turkish language entitled *The World of Islam*, of which the late Dr Abdul Wahhab Azzam of Egypt held in higher regard than Ibn Battutah's oft celebrated journals.

Sheikh Abdul Rasheed Ibrahim was a traveller, a Da'ee, an activist, a well cultured and erudite scholar, a writer and a thinker. He is rightfully remembered as one of the pioneering and leading champions of Islam of Japan. He passed away in 1944, he is buried in the Tama Muslim cemetery, near Tokyo.





# MOHAMMAD ALI JAUHAR (1878 - 1931)

## THE CONFERENCE

### A MAN OF DISTINCTION

He was a man of many talents among which included being an educator, a poet, a journalist, a politician, an Islamic scholar, a philanthropist, a social activist and a remarkable orator, once described by H.G. Wells as having;

*“the heart of Napoleon, the pen of Macaulay, and the tongue of Berk”*

Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar was born in India, the year was 1878.

He went on to study and later graduated with honours from the Aligarh University before attending England's Lincoln College Oxford in 1898, where he read modern history.

He soon became a fantastic orator and a prolific author, writing in various Indian and English newspapers including *The Times* and *The Observer*.



### ISLAM AND INDIA

Back in India, Mohammed Ali attended the *All India Muslim League* in 1906, where he went on to serve as its president in the year 1918. He was also a member of the *Indian National Congress* while contributing towards the *Khilafat Society* and Gandhi's *Non-Cooperation Movement*. Later on he departed from the *Indian National Congress* in 1928, protesting against President Nehru's report - turning his efforts instead towards Muhammad Ali Jinnah's *14 point constitutional reform plan*.



### THE FINAL CONFERENCE

Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar became the 6th Muslim president of the *Indian National Congress*, he travelled alongside Gandhi to Britain for a round table conference in 1931 where he delivered a legendary speech on behalf of Indian Muslims. Soon after the first session was over - on January the 4th in 1931, he collapsed and died. His burial was performed in Jerusalem, according to his wish.



# AL HAJJ UMAR TALL (1797 - 1864)

## THE ELDER

### A MAN OF VIRTUE

This eminent scholar and empire builder founded one of the largest unified Muslim territories in the history of Western Africa – encompassing Mali, Guinea and Mauritania in what was known as the *Toucouleur Empire*.

Born in 1797 in the West African region of Senegal, Umar bin Sa'id al-Futi al-Turi al-Kadiwi, more commonly referred to as Al-Hajj Umar Tall – was a remarkable statesman, a military giant and a spiritual guide for his people. His missions begins in 1828 when he performs the grand Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, passing by Damascus where he became acquainted with Ibrahim Pasha after having healed the Pasha's son from a deadly fever. Upon returning to his homeland, Al-Hajj Umar dedicated the next 15 years of his life teaching, preaching and reviving the Prophetic tradition among the local tribes.



### EMPIRE BUILDING

He then married the grand-daughter of Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio and settled in the *Sokoto Empire* before then moving to the Futa Jallon and then to Dinguiraye in 1836, from where he mounted a successful military campaign conquering several neighboring regions. By April 1857, Al-Hajj Umar Tall declared war on the Khasso kingdom before besieging the French army at Medina Fort, the siege failed on July 18th 1857 and the French sent their governor Louis Faidherbe with reinforcement.

Al-Hajj Umar Tall was fatally wounded in an explosion during the year 1864, he died from his injuries. In Senegal, Guinea, and Mali many still celebrate him as an eminent Sheikh and an exemplary hero.



# MUHAMMAD SHIBLI NOMANI (1857 - 1914)

## THE BIOGRAPHER

### A POLYGLOT

Fluent in Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Turkish and Urdu. He was a scholar of the Quran, an established historian, a respected theologian, a reformer and a keen poet. For all of his remarkable work and accomplishments Sheikh Shibli Nomani is perhaps best remembered for his remarkable biography of the Prophet Muhammad (Salla llāhu 'alayhe wa-sallam) entitled *Sirat-un-Nabi*. Born in Uttar Pradesh in the year 1857, Shibli Nomani later traveled to Turkey, Egypt, and Syria for research and study during the 1890s - meeting with various scholars and leading Muslim personalities of the day.

ندوة العلماء کے تاریخی اجلاس اپریل ۱۹۱۲ء کا ایک نادر مرقع



A session of the Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, April 1912. Azad is standing, fourth from left. Shibli Numani is sitting, third from left. Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi is standing, fifth from left. Rashid Rida is sitting, fourth from left.

### EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Upon his return to India, Shibli Nomani became acquainted with the pioneering champion for educational reform in India - the founder of the famous *Aligarh Muslim University*, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. By February 1882, Shibli Nomani was a member of the academic faculty lecturing on Persian and Arabic language for the next 16 years before serving as a consultant for Hyderabad's Education Department in 1898, where his firm advocacy resulted in the reformation of Osmania University, the very first Indian university to use the Urdu language in delivering lectures.

Shibli Nomani was a very versatile and gifted scholar who successfully combined Western academic styles to deliver powerful Urdu literature. His acquaintance with established Orientalists such as Thomas Arnold urged him to highlight the need for the Ummah to develop its knowledge of contemporary science and education but through the medium of traditional and cultural treasures such as the Urdu language and Islamic heritage rather than blindly imitating Western thought. He died in 1914.



# LALLA FATMA N'SOUMER (1830 - 1863)

## COURAGE HAS A NAME

### THE PIERCING INTELLECT

Distinguished by her piercing intellect and towering achievements, Lalla Fatma courageously stood up to the might of the French army during Algeria's most difficult era and is remembered today as a national heroine.

Born in 1830, the year in which the French colonial powers landed in Algeria, Fatma Sid Ahmed grew up under her father's shadow, insisting on attending his Qur'an classes where she memorized the Qur'an by heart. As a teenager, Lalla Fatma refused a marriage proposal preferring instead to continue her education making her a well-known intellectual in her hometown and beyond.



### IN THE GARDEN OF MARTYRS

In the year 1854, Lalla Fatma joined the Algerian resistance against General Rondon in the battle of Azazga, which resulted in a humiliating defeat for the French invading forces. Lalla Fatma rallied troops and mobilized volunteers, both men and women – in order to defend Algeria from the renewed French assault.

The French called for a ceasefire that same year but betrayed the truce in 1857. Outnumbered and out-gunned, Lalla Fatma's army lost to the French forces, many of her soldiers died on the battlefield but she was taken as a war prisoner. In 1863, having succumbed to the effects of ill health and incarceration, she died aged 33 years old. In 1994 her remains were exhumed from the cemetery of Sidi Abdellah in Tourtatine and interred in the *Square of Martyrs*, in El Alia Cemetery.





# SIR SAYYID AHMAD KHAN (1817 - 1898)

## LIBERATE YOUR MIND

### THE UNIVERSITY

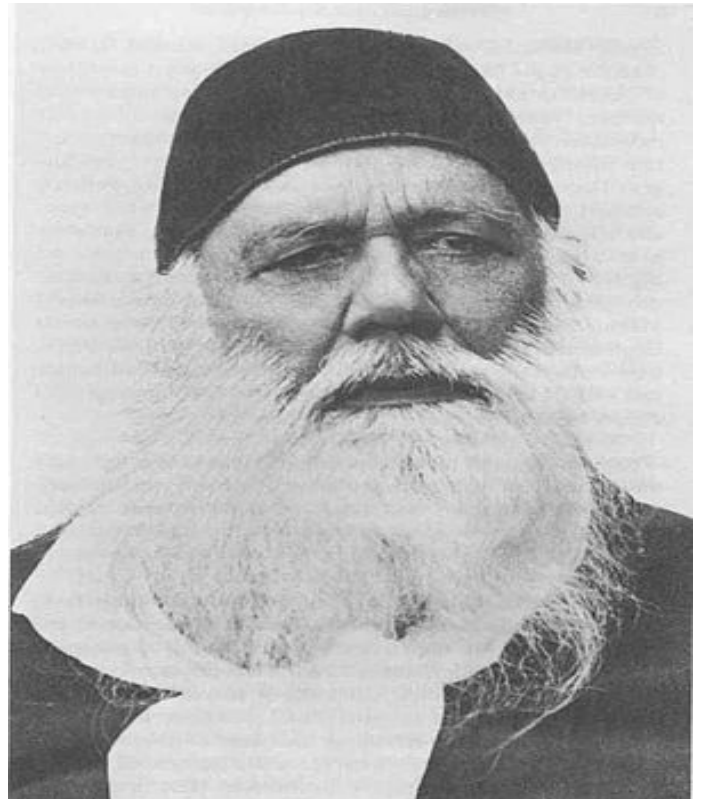
Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan was the pioneering champion for educational reform and a passionate advocate for the intellectual development and advancement of the Muslim community in the Asian sub-continent. He founded the *The Aligarh Muslim University* of India, making it possible for millions of Indian Muslims to acquire a modern education, many of whom became prominent members of society and leading scholars in their own rights.

### AS THE WORLD CHANGES

Born in 1817 in Delhi, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was awakened to the rapid changes and developments in the world of science, technology and modern disciplines, primarily within Continental Europe.

This was in stark contrast with the regressive state of Muslim society and its isolation from the rest of the developing world. Enthusiastic and keen to effect positive and progressive change within Indian Muslim society, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan promoted education as the key agent for social change.

Though he is not infallible and many of his critics have disproved of his thoughts and ideas modelled on European thought, this does not negate the validity and the premise for his underlying proposition that nothing in the Glorious Quran prohibits scientific enquiry and the advancement of worldly knowledge, in fact he would argue that the Quran demands such intellectual enquiries for one who aspires to be a true Muslim.



### A LASTING LEGACY

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established his first school at Moradabad in 1858, teaching in Urdu and promoting a greater understanding of diverse world history and culture. He passed away in the year 1898, having established one of the most prestigious Muslim Universities of the day.



# 'IZZEDINE AL-QASSAM (1882 - 1935)

## PALESTINE

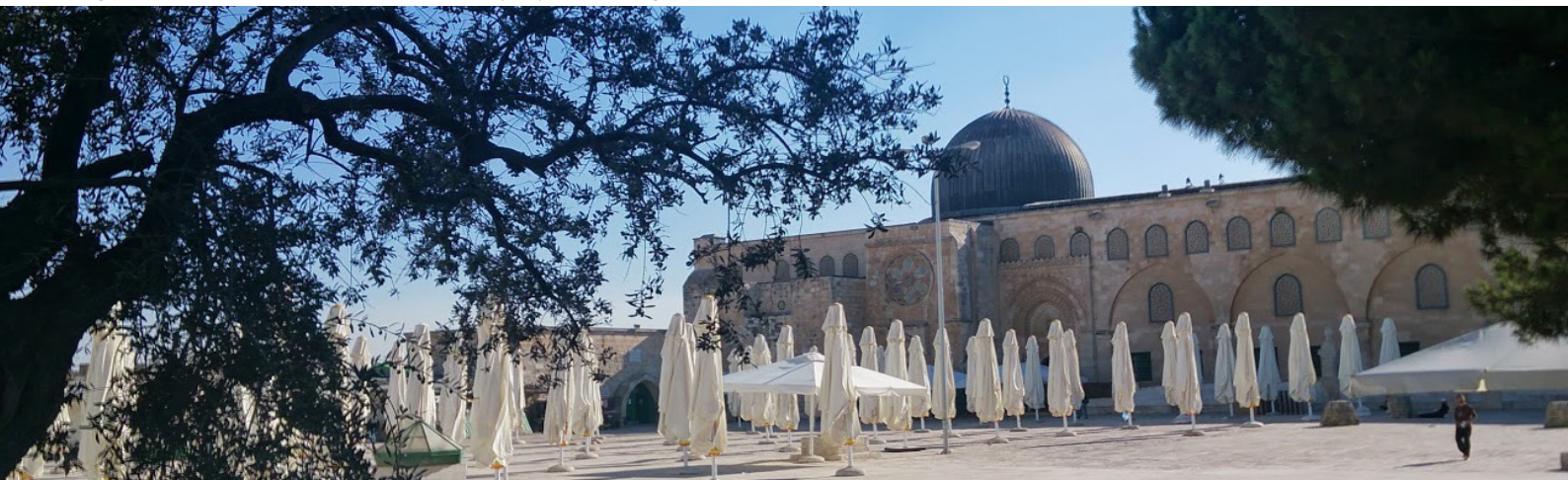
### THE HILLS OF DESTINY

Popularly remembered as a staunch opponent of Zionism, a man whose legacy remains rooted in advocacy for the Palestinian cause, wider education and societal reform. Muhammad 'Izz al-Din bin 'Abd al-Qadir Qassam was born in the year 1882 in the town of Jabla situated in modern-day Syria. But in 1902 he travelled to Cairo as a student at the al-Azhar University. Later, after having graduated, Muhammad 'Izz al-Din Qassam became a preacher in his hometown but he soon got involved in activism – and when Italy invaded Libya in 1911 - Muhammad 'Izz al-Din Qassam responded by raising funds and recruiting volunteers to aid the Libyan liberation struggle.



### DEAR PALESTINE

Similarly, after World War I broke out he joined the Ottoman army and later returned home to organize resistance against the French. He was a key figure in the 1921 Syrian revolt however he was forced to escape to Haifa in Palestine where he directed his efforts towards serving the peasants and farmers by setting up a night school for casual labourers. It would not be long before he began working to assist the Palestinian cause when during the 1930s he established a group called the *Black Hand*, this self-defence association was comprised of local residents who were pushed by mounting pressure from the British and other occupying forces to safeguard their families and property by resisting the oppression.



### AS THE SUN SETS

However, the movement was soon discontinued when in November 1935, Al-Qassam and a dozen fighters were besieged by the British for ten days in a cave near Ya'bad where he was subsequently assassinated a few days later - in what became a contributing factor in the 1936–39 Palestinian revolt. Today his memory lives on as a courageous and heroic champion of the Palestinian people. He was buried in Haifa.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY, REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

## Sheikh Hu Songshan

- Article Familiar strangers: a history of Muslims in Northwest China. Lipman, J, U. of Washington Press
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu\\_Songshan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Songshan)

## Muhammad Abduh

- Book Muhammad Abduh (Makers of the Muslim World), Mark Sedgwick, ISBN-10 1851684328
- Article Muhammad 'Abduh, Elmar Harder, Center for Islam and Science
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad\\_Abduh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Abduh)

## Abdul-Rashid Ibrahim

- Article The Message of Islam in Japan – History and Development, Islamic centre of Japan, Dr. Salih Mahdi al-Samarrai
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdurresid\\_Ibrahim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdurresid_Ibrahim)

## Mohammad Ali Jouhar

- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad\\_Ali\\_Jouhar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Ali_Jouhar)

## Al-Hajj Umar Tall

- Article In the Path of Allah: 'Umar, An Essay into the Nature of Charisma in Islam'
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El\\_Hadj\\_Umar\\_Tall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Hadj_Umar_Tall)

## Shibli Nomani

- Article "A Biographical sketch of Shibli Nomani", Dr. Ian H Douglas, Darul Musannefin
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shibli\\_Nomani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shibli_Nomani)

## Lalla Fadhma N'Soumer

- Article Worldwide Guide to Women in Leadership, "Women in Power 1840-1870"
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalla\\_Fatma\\_N%27Soumer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lalla_Fatma_N%27Soumer)

## Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan

- Article "The rich legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan", Inam A. Amrohvi, Gulf
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed\\_Ahmad\\_Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Ahmad_Khan)

## Izzedine Al-Qassam

- Article Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Martyr: Rethinking Izz al-Dīn al-Qassām
- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izz\\_ad-Din\\_al-Qassam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izz_ad-Din_al-Qassam)